M. L.

A BRIEF HISTORY:

1st FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Crossville, Tennessee

1887 - 1962

Compiled by

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Published by
Chronicle Publishing Company of Crossville, Inc.
Crossville, Tennessee

FOREWORD

This is a record of a good many things which happened in a 'house made by hands'; and of the way in which the faith of those who came, and served, was strengthened for their journey to 'a house not made by hands'.

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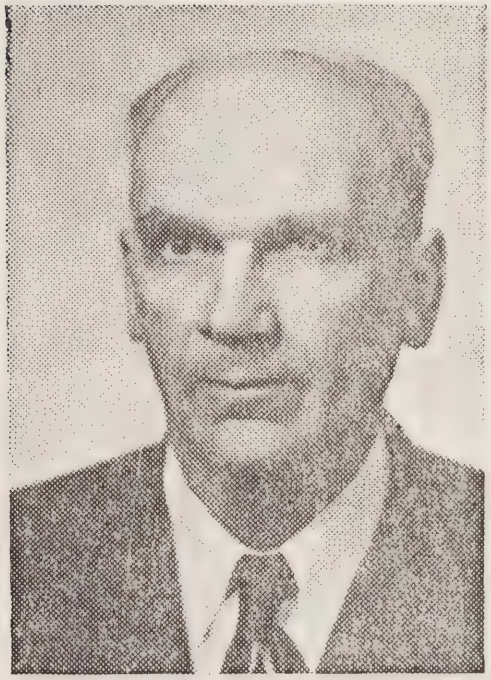
Our church is most grateful to all who contributed, in any way, to the making of this booklet, and to the success, of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary observance.

DEDICATED TO



Abram Nightingale, Minister

FOR THIRTY-TWO YEARS

Building About 1902

IN PREPARING for the observance of the Seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the First Congregational Church, the committee planned a written narrative taken from the Church Minutes, memories of some older folk and files of old newspapers, published in this county.

In so far as we were able, the picture which accompanies this compiled article is one of the earliest to be found. It was taken by the late William B. Johnson, one of the first photographers, if not the earliest, to locate here. His studio stood about where the parking lot is behind the present Chronicle building. This building was not removed until in the 1930's. This engraving was taken from an old post card, many of which had been made by the Chronicle Publishing Company and sold in several places. A postmark on this one shows the cards were printed prior to 1905.

OTHER "FIRSTS"

Newspaper notices of much interest have been found in issues of CROSSVILLE SENTINEL, and CROSSVILLE TIMES, 1887, which verify the fact the beginnings of this church were in 1887. (All of these newspapers were consolidated into the CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE when the late Seward C. Bishop took over ownership and management.)

We quote the first notice found in The Crossville Times, dated May 3, 1888:

"Church Association"

"The First Congregational Association of the Cumberland Plateau met Thursday evening, April 26, at Grandview, Rhea County, Tenn. Present six ministers and a large number of laymen representing seven or eight churches. Mr. G. Stanley Pope was elected moderator and Mr. Palmer of Grandview Normal Institute was elected scribe. Mr. Cooley preached the opening sermon."

Upon examination of the first minute book of the local church, which was on display on the Anniversary Day (Oct. 7, 1962), we find the first minutes must have been copied from an older book, due to the fact that this book was bought from the Chronicle Publishing Company which must have been at least 1897 or 1898 as Mr. Bishop did not have office supplies for sale until about that time. In this minute book, we find the first minutes which read:

"Crossville, Tennessee, Oct. 12, 1887.

"The Christian People of Crossville met for the purpose of organizing a Congregational Church. Six persons gave their names as members of such church.

"On the second Sabbath of December, 1887, there was held a communion service at which time and place the following persons gave their names and were by vote, received as members of said church:" (In the list of names will be found such family names as Archer, Chadburn, Wickersham, Way, Elder, Lisk, Parlin, Stevens, Wilcox.) "Eight of the above were received by letter and nine were baptized."

The next minutes are dated January, 1888, March 1888, June 1888, and on through the year to December 14, 1888, when another group of persons with these family names were voted to membership: Pogue,

Phelps, Cother, Peck, Cooley, Smith, Cobb, Jordon, Baur, Cameron and Spencer. Later that same month the names Beadle and Forbes were added to the families joining. The March, 1888 minutes show: "F. M. Cooley commencing labor under the direction of the American Missionary Association."

During the summer of 1888, we find in newspaper notices that Children's Day was observed at this church; in September meetings were being held in the Swedenborgian Church, (which was located on the site of the Walter W. Davis home on West Adams Street). The Ladies Aid Society had been organized in March, 1888, met every Wednesday afternoon "between two and three o'clock."

H. R. Webb and D. Wickersham were added to the building committee which had been appointed in March, and Walter Andrews and H. J. Dunbar were the builders. Mr. Andrews built the old wooden pulpit that many yet remember, as the one now in use is of local Crab Orchard stone, made and presented by R. N. Pelot of Crab Orchard Stone Company.

Perhaps here is the right place to quote in full, facts furnished by Mrs. Bea Forbes Van Horn of Memphis, a sister of Mrs. Dorothy Forbes Wright, who resides on Pigeon Ridge Road, Cumberland Homesteads. We quote "Walter Andrews and Jay Dunbar were the builders. Walter Andrews built the pulpit which was used throughout the years. F. M. Cooley was the first minister, lived in the first house, built by C. C. Way at the top of Prospect Hill now called Adams Street." (This house was located on East Adams Street at the corner of South Webb Avenue, but that house has been torn down and a new one built, partly of the old lumber.) "The church was built 'kitty corner' across from the Cooley home, facing towards Main Street. (November 1, 1888 'The Crossville Times' states 'The New Congregational church and school building is now almost completed'). "H. E. Partridge, who lived in Pomona, was the second minister. His wife was very fond of singing a solo; and always sang the same hymn."

"This was a community church for all denominations."

"A public school was held in this church for many years, William Cameron was sent by the American Missionary Association, (to serve as principal); and was later transferred to the school owned by the Association, at Grandview." "Teachers under Mr. Cameron, were: Miss Maggie Cameron, Mrs. Barron, who lived in 'The Beehive' and Miss Margo Tracy. Three of the Sunday School teachers were Mrs. Lisk, Susie Wickersham, who married Ed Wight, Mrs. Skemp, and Miss Mary Tracy.

"Arthur J. Forbes (father of Mrs. Van Horn and Mrs. Wright) was instrumental in securing an organ, and was organist for a number of years. He was ably assisted by Miss Lola Webb (who later became the wife of the late Judge Charles E. Snodgrass).

"The Hymnals used were the First and Second Gospel Hymns, which contained songs that are well remembered by many today. Everyone, in those days, could and did sing, even though there was a choir with many good voices. One outstanding voice was that of Helen Dickson—who had a deep contralto. The American Missionary Association continued to keep up the church and school.

"The first marriage in this church was that of Amanda Barnard to 'By' Parham. The second was Bessie Wilcox to H. V. B. Smith." (The

Crossville Chronicle dated Aug. 8, 1894 says: "Last Monday Mr. William Rhea, of Fargo, North Dakota, and Miss Martha Rose of this place, were united in marriage at the Congregational Church by Rev. S. W. Tyndall, of Harriman.")

"Some of the people who attended the church at that time were these families: Keyes, Dunbar, Brown, Cline, Forbes, Pendleton, Leland, Snodgrass, Webb, Tracy, Hamby, Walker, Hatfield, Newberry, DeRossett, Dorton, Beadle, Lisk, Dickson, Way, Dickerson, Holloway, Stephens, Olds, Hayley, Spencer, Palmer, Hyder, Kerley, Monroe, Upham, Proctor, Tollett, Perkins, Burnett, Miller, Hinch, Wilcox, Dreutzer, Remington, Cother, Dickson, and DeGolia. In a number of cases there were two or three families of the same name.

"The Congregational was the second church built in Crossville. When it opened an Epworth League for adults and Junior League were formed. They had programs printed for each department and red ribbon badges for the Juniors.

"All children loved to go to Sunday School, and all adults attended church."

EARLY MINISTERS

A bit about some of the ministers who have pastored the church throughout its seventy-five years of service in this section of the Cumberland Plateau is brought to your attention now.

Rev. Cooley — The Rev. F. M. Cooley, who came from Iowa, was the first minister and remained in that position until after 1890, although an exact date cannot be found.

In 1898 **the Rev. Horace E. Partridge** was called and remained in this county more than nine years. He was called here as this church's minister in that year, served about two years, took over the church at Pomona after that, then served a second period beginning in 1897.

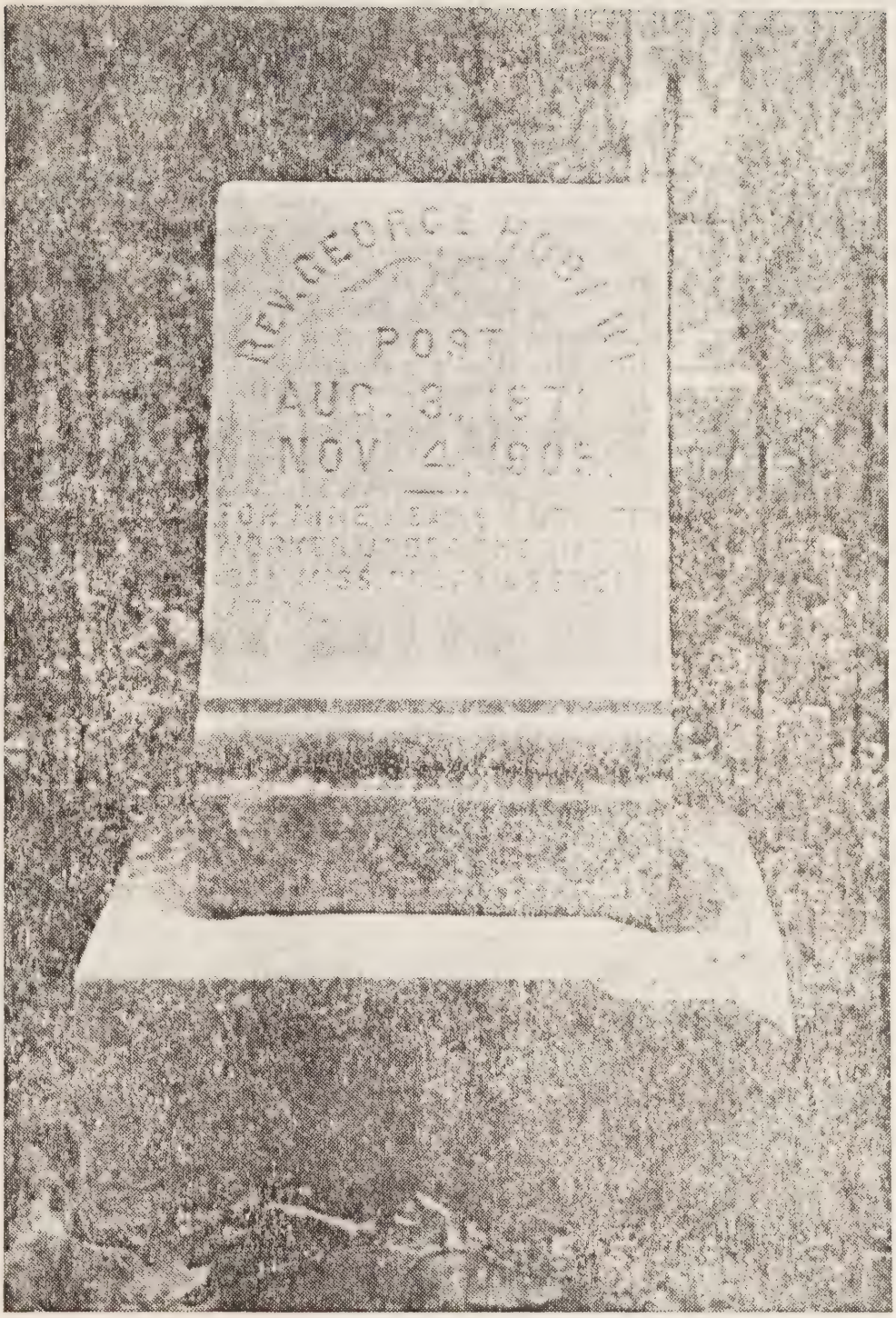
During the interim years, Prof. W. E. Wheeler, who was head of Pleasant Hill Academy, filled the pulpit, coming from Pleasant Hill to do so.

One Buried in Area

The Rev. George Hobart Post was called in 1900, coming from Bon Air in White County. His ministry was concluded by his early and untimely death from pneumonia, at the age of 34, on November 4, 1905. The fact that he is the only minister who served this church, to be buried anywhere in this area, prompted us to secure a picture of his monument. The inscription reads: "Rev. George Hobart Post, August 3, 1871 - November 5, 1905. For nine years a devoted worker under the American Missionary Association."

In so far as we were able, we could not find any other building standing, which had been used strictly as a parsonage, except the Partridge house, which is in Pomona. Of course Mr. Nightingale's home still stands; and the house now owned and occupied by the William M. Breedings, located on East Adams Street was used as a parsonage, while the Rev. J. M. Johnson was minister in 1909.

The Partridge house may be seen by entering Pomona from Highway 70, going straight on with church and school house at your left—past the cemetery, and when you reach the Felix Carother's home you will be where the Partridge family lived.



POST BURIAL PLACE—Located in what is now known as the Old Bon Air Cemetery, in White County, is the burial place of the Rev. George Hobart Post, minister of the First Congregational Church in the early 1900's.

After Mr. Post's death, **the Rev. W. O. Berckman** was called and records show he remained until 1908. His family consisted of his wife, their daughter, Winifred, and twin sons, Hoadley and Webster. After 1908 they returned to their home in one of the New England states.

Six Others Prior to 1924

Minute books show six others were called and served part or full time from 1909 to 1924. In order these are: J. M. Johnson, Charles G. McKay, Michael A. Martin, R. E. Newton, who was ordained in this church as minister; John C. Pryor and Mrs. G. L. Day. In so far as we have been able, we have found that two are still living: The Rev. Charles G. McKay, who is in a nursing home near Akron, Ohio, near one of his sons. Mrs. McKay is with him; both are past ninety years of age. The other is the Rev. R. E. Newton, who is still with a Congregational Church in Pomona Park, Florida.

The Rev. Abram Nightingale was called in 1924, after several years of part time ministers, and he served 32 years. The present minister is Harold Wiley Freer, who completed his fifth year at the close of June, 1962.

To The Memory of

GEORGE HOBART POST

Minister, 1900 - 1905

"My father was George Hobart Post, and was from Clinton, New York, (a suburb of Utica), and graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, and then from Hartford Theological Seminary in 1896.

"His first church was at Jellico, Tennessee, and he stayed there until January, 1899. He spent a short time at LaFollette and Harriman, and went to Crossville November 20, 1900, and I was born in Crossville in January, 1901.

"He preached several other places and was at Bon Air at the time of his death in November, 1905, at the age of 34. I think he was there at Crossville twice, but I do not have the date."

—By his son, Roswell D. Post

Mr. Post is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mattie C. Post, who resides in Tampa, Florida; their daughter, Mrs. Mary Post Seaman, of Olympia, Washington; their son, Roswell D. Post of Birmingham, Alabama; two granddaughters, Martha Ann, who is Mrs. James Blackwell, Jr., of Pensacola, Florida; and Miss Nancy Post, of Birmingham, Alabama, and a great grandson, James Blackwell, III.

Church Is Dedicated

From the newspaper THE TENNESSEE TIMES, dated Thursday, Dec. 13, 1888, we find: "Rev. G. Stanley Pope was in town Saturday, and cheered the Congregational people very much by making arrangements for the dedication of the church and the opening of school in the church and school building. Matters were dragging somewhat before his arrival but from now on every thing may be expected to move off promptly and harmoniously."

The next quote comes from the same newspaper, the same date in a different place: "A team starts for Grandview today to bring over a new and first class organ for the new church, an instrument that Rev. Pope let the church at this place have for only $25."

According to THE CROSSVILLE TIMES, Volume III, No. 6, dated December 27, 1888, "The Dedication of the Congregational Church at Crossville has been arranged to take place on Sunday, December 30, 1888, and the following program has been prepared:

"Morning Service—Scripture Selections by Rev. B. Dodge, Pleasant Hill; Sermon, Rev. G. Stanley Pope, of Grandview; Dedicatory Prayer by Rev. S. E. Lathrop, of Sherwood; Address to the People by Rev. B. C. Riggs, of Grandview. Evening Service—Rev. S. E. Lathrop, of Sherwood, followed by Reception of Members."

Dedicated

"The next to the last day of 1888 will long be remembered and cherished by the people of Crossville and vicinity, as the date of one of the most interesting events that has occurred in the history of this thriving mountain village. It was the dedication of the new church and school building erected by the American Missionary Association and the good people of Crossville, jointly. The Association paying one-half of the costs of the building and the people of the town the other. The building cost a little over $2000, and is a model of beauty and neatness. The lots were presented by Messrs. Way, Beadle and Anderson in the heart of their addition to the town of Crossville, and are the finest situation for beauty and healthfulness on the Plateau.

"The friends of education and progress, without respect to name or party, had been anxiously awaiting the consummation of this enterprise for several months. The men and boys volunteered to clean up the grounds and the ladies had beautifully decorated the rooms. The Sabbath school met in the morning at 10 o'clock and before they had concluded their services the congregation began to assemble for preaching. It was soon apparent that extra seats would have to be provided and the aisles were filled with chairs from the Courthouse.

"Both rooms were soon well filled and a short prayer of invocation was offered by the Rev. J. Stanley Pope; a voluntary by the choir was sung. The scripture lesson was read by Prof. Dixon, of Grandview, followed by prayer by the Rev. Scott, a pastor of the M. E. Church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Stanley Pope, Field Superintendent, who had planned the building and headed the enterprise from the beginning. The sermon was one of unusual earnestness, every sentence of which revealed something of the energy of the man, whose untiring industry and patience has so often been taxed in the erection of this building.

"We can give but a brief outline of his subject which was 'The Erection of the Tabernacle in the Community, in the Home and in the Heart.' Prayer of Dedication was offered by the Rev. S. E. Lathrop, of Sherwood. An address to the people was made by Prof. Dixon, of Grandview. Owing to the length of the morning service and the prospect of bad weather, the afternoon meeting was omitted and the public reception of members was attended to at the morning service. Ten new members had been received by vote of the church, some of whom were not present from unavoidable circumstances. A good sermon in the evening by Rev. S. E. Lathrop from the words 'This Is the Way, Walk Ye in It', closed the labors of the day. The Dedication of this building insures the best of educational advantages for the people of Crossville and vicinity."

School Opens

"A school of two departments will open on Monday next in this building under the direction and management of the A.M.A. While the community feels grateful to the association and its agents for this home and center of learning, refinement and religion, it may be excused for a just pride in its own liberality, which would be greatly marred should they forget the building committee who in addition to their contributions have devoted so much time to the erection of this building. The absence of Dr. Beard was regretted by many but as his visit is only deferred all will finally be gratified."

MORE ABOUT DEDICATION

This may seem repetitious of the Church Dedication, but it contains a view of one who took part in the dedication; and had an inside view of the circumstances which brought about its establishment in this region, and some of its people of that day. This should attract the historical-minded, and those who enjoy the older ways of expression.

From the CROSSVILLE TIMES, dated January 31, 1889, comes the article, titled "A COMMUNICATION".

"Rev. Stanley Lathrop who was present at the dedication of the A. M. A. Church and school building at Crossville gives the following account of his experiences and what he saw in our villlage in the Helping Hand a small journal he is publishing at Sherwood, Tennessee:

" 'Having been invited by Pastor F. M. Cooley of Crossville to attend the dedication services of the new Congregational Church and school building there, we left home on the 28th of December for that purpose.

" 'We arrived just in time for the morning services at Crossville, the county seat of Cumberland County, situated on a rising elevation from which loom up in plain sight the giant forms of Crab Orchard Mountain, Waldens Ridge and other high points in that glorious mountain region. Driving up to the new church and school building, we found it occupying the most sightly elevation in the town, commanding a wide view in every direction. There were a great many saddle horses and teams hitched to the young trees scattered about. The building has one large room thirty by forty feet, used for church services as well as school purposes, with an addition connected by folding doors for use of primary scholars and Sunday School. We found the house almost filled with an attentive and reverent congregation.

" 'Greeting the several brothers whom we knew, the dedication services soon began. The church was beautifully decorated and both rooms were

filled by the congregation. There was excellent music from the choir, and the other parts of service were distributed as follows: Scripture Lesson, read by Prof. Dixon, of Grandview; prayer by the Rev. Mr. Scott of the M. E. Church, sermon by Rev. G. Stanley Pope of Grandview, General Missionary of the American Missionary Association for the Cumberland Plateau, who had planned the building and headed the enterprise from the start. The sermon was very practical, earnest and appropriate from the Text Exodus 30:2, upon the subject "Erecting the Tabernacle of the Community, the Home and the Heart'. Brother Pope is a most energetic patient and untiring worker, as was shown not only by his excellent sermon, but by his constant labors at many points all through that region. Rev. Stanley Lathrop offered the prayer of dedication, Prof. Dixon gave a short address to the people, and Pastor F. M. Cooley pronounced the benediction. In the evening, notwithstanding very dark and threatening weather, there was a large and attentive congregation to whom the writer preached from the text 'This Is the Way, Walk Ye in It', showing some of the duties of Christians as guide boards to point to Christ by precept and example. We dined with Brother Scott, a pastor of the M. E. Church who was formerly from Western New York, met a lady from southern New York, who had lived many years in Wisconsin; preached in the pulpit of Pastor Cooley, who began his ministry in Viroqua, Wisc., the same town where we began our ministry twenty years later in 1870; were entertained at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Stephens, recently from Northern New York; and being ourself a native of Central New York, felt quite at home in this center of the great Cumberland Plateau.

" 'Crossville has been settled more than sixty years, but has only recently begun to grow, numbering now about six hundred people. They still show an old tumble down log building which was the top hotel of the place when Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk used to visit them. There is a new stone Courthouse building recently erected, and several stores and good hotels, some of quite recent date. No liquor has been sold in the town for several years, and cannot be under the present state law, which forbids its sale within four miles of any school. A large Northern immigration has come into that section and their enterprise is being felt and seen in all directions. Probably two-thirds of the people of Crossville and vicinity are from the North, and it is said that there are more Northern people in that county than any other in Tennessee."

" 'Their appreciation of the new church and school is shown by the fact that they raised one thousands dollars toward the cost of the building, and A. M. A gave an equal amount. The Crossville Times is a wide awake weekly newspaper published by J. F. and I. E. Cooley, sons of Rev. F. M. Cooley. Whenever a railroad is built into that region there is bound to be a large influx of health-seekers and home-seekers, who desire a bracing yet mild Northern climate in a Southern land. All through that region, and in fact over this great mountain plateau, the church and school privileges were very poor and scanty until the A. M. A. began work a few years ago. Now these institutions at Pleasant Hill, Crossville, Pomona, Grandview, Sherwood, and elsewhere are doing a great work for all the people, both native born and immigrants. Great good is thus being done, and privileges are granted for many who hitherto had been deprived of them. Rev. G. S. Pope, the General Missionary for that

region is indefatigable in his work. Recently, he held revival meetings at Glen Mary, a coal mining town on the Cincinnati Southern railroad and organized a Congregational Church of thirty-six members, twenty of whom were new converts, and the others from five different denominations, without a single Congregationalist among them—the only church organization in the place. So the work is spreading, and God's Kingdom is being built up. 'There is a great need of the enlargement and multiplying of all these schools and churches'."

ANNUAL MEETING GROUPS

We now draw attention to two particular groups of persons who attended this church as well as many who were members. All were active in the duties of the school; the ministers, church school superintendents, organists, Sunday school teachers, and church clerks.

Church Officials

Mrs. O. N. Wilcox and Mrs. Hattie Cooley shared the duties of Church Clerk during the organization years—1887 and 1888; Mrs. G. A. Stephens and Mrs. J. H. Cother served until after 1890. The lack of official church records from 1890 to 1909 gives even very little hearsay as to who took minutes then. From 1909 to the present time these persons served in that capacity: Mrs. A. L. Garrison, Mrs. G. A. Schlicher, H. E. Beadle, Charles Comstock, W. B. Bandy, Mrs. W. B. Bandy, Miss Anna McGuire, Mrs. H. V. Sanders, Mrs. H. E. Beadle, Mrs. Howard Baine, John A. Odom, Edward Turnbull, Dr. M. M. Young, Hugh Hendricks. Mrs. H. V. Sanders took over in 1959 and has continued in that position.

Among Sunday School Superintendents these names are found: Charles Comstock, A. L. Garrison, F. A. McCartt, G. A. Haley, G. P. Burnett, B. D. Lemert, Frank March, P. V. Beadle, W. F. Bandy, J. S. Bowden, and Mrs. H. J. (Mimi) Dunbar. Mrs. M. M. Young has been serving continuously since 1954.

Mrs. W. S. (Lelah) DeGolia served as a Deaconess continuously from 1922 to 1951. Mrs. S. C. (Elizabeth L.) Cline served as a Deaconess the same years as Mrs. DeGolia and added four more making her years of service 1922 to 1955. (Both are now deceased).

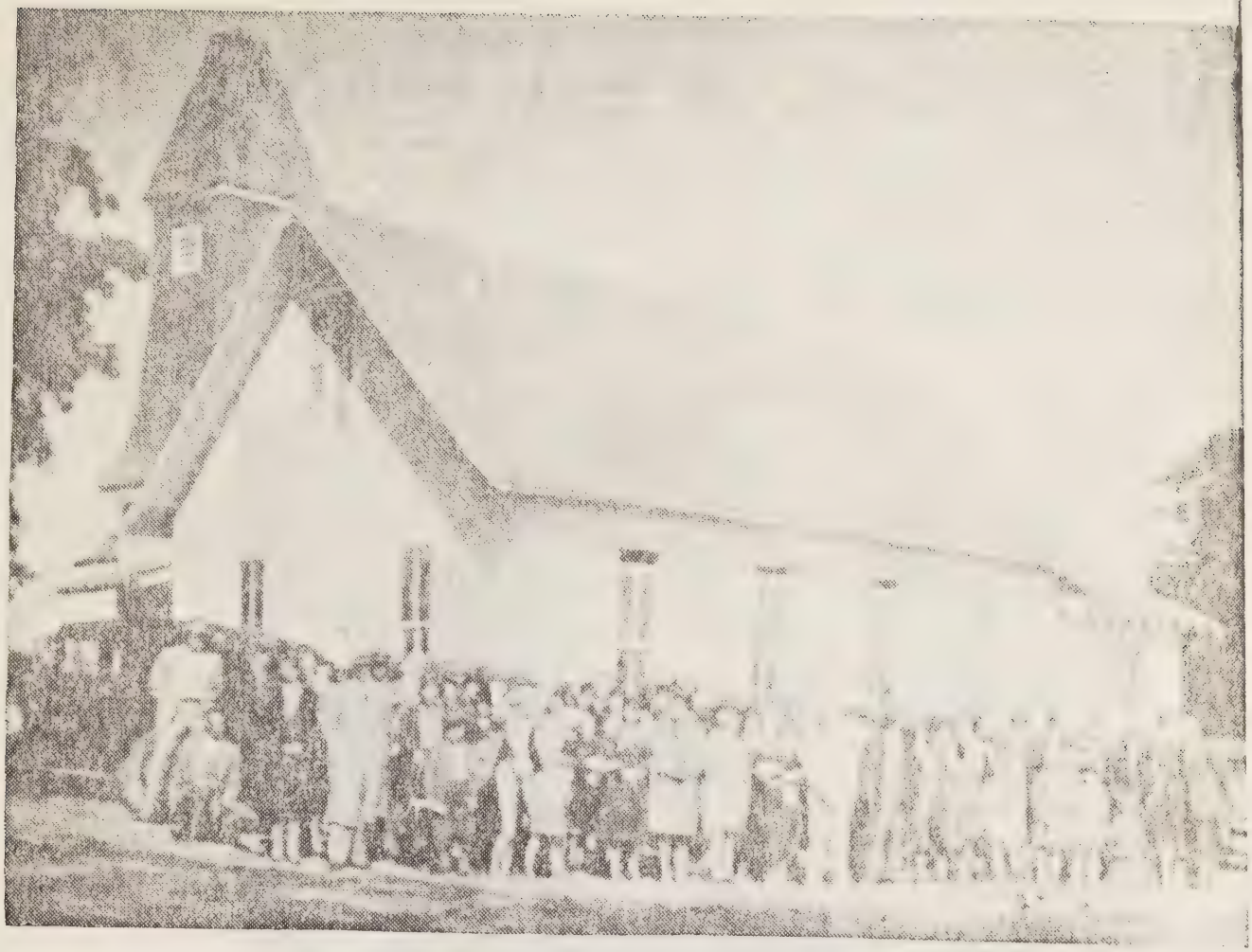
The late White F. Bandy served more terms as trustee, though not continuously than any other member. While for the number of years of membership, George F. Brookhart follows immediately after Mr. Bandy for the second longest number of terms as a trustee. He is now chairman of the Board of Trustees.

In the Woman's Fellowship, Mrs. U. S. (Flora) Rose and Miss Anna McGuire, (both deceased), are credited with more years service as Secretary of that organization than any others. For the most terms as Presiden of the Woman's Fellowship, Mrs. Edward Turnbull has served three terms, which is perhaps most for any one president in so far as records show. She is now this year, 1962, serving her third term. She could almost reach the number of years as secretary, as those two mentioned above if one counted the number of times she has filled in for absent secretaries.

Picture Explanation

Picture number one was taken during the ministry of the Rev. Charles G. McKay, (as near as we can find about the year 1911). Effort has been made to identify those in the picture. This will bring to mind many who have long since passed away; but leave some of the younger generation who will be remembered by many, or at least the family name will be remembered.

Picture Number One—Beginning with the back row, standing are found: The Rev. Charles G. McKay, Miss Bessie Johnson, Mrs. W. B. Johnson, J. E. Converse, holding their first-born son; Mrs. J. E. Converse, Mrs. Susan Dunbar, Mrs. Charles Comstock, Harry E. Beadle, ——— Fielder, Percy V. Beadle, Mrs. Flora Hamby Rose, U. S. Rose, Joseph Deters, Charles Comstock, W. F. Bandy, Fred A. McCartt, Herman Hendley, Mrs. G. A. Schlicher, Mrs. Briel, Samuel Cline, Mrs. W. J. Julian. On front row—children: two sons of the Rev. McKay; Clyde Beadle, Mildred Beadle, Helen Garrison (Ledford), Willie Rose (Anderson), Juanita Comstock (Irish), Nelle McCartt (Williams).



Picture Number Two—This picture taken in 1929, four years after the arrival of the Rev. Abram Nightingale to be minister, gives almost an entirely new group, but still a sprinkling of the same family names. In the front row may be found: Glenn O'Dell, Ethel Hall (Hale), Herman Carr, Mary Lowe, Jim Tom Beadle, Eileen Brookhart (Willis), Donald Brookhart, Betty Ann McGuire, Ernestine Hughes (Jackson), Evelyn Bandy (Jones), Marie Bandy (Jones), Elmer Jones, S. C. Bishop, Ward Bandy, Powell D. Garrison, Jr., Jennie Beadle (Colbert), Helen Frances Ledford, Betty Jane Garrison (Clouse), Jimmie Ledford, Wallace Ledford, Charles Comstock. Second row: M. E. Dorton, W. F. Bandy, Agnes Lee Dorton, Mrs. W. F. Bandy, ————, George F. Brookhart holding Edward Brookhart, Mrs. S. C. Bishop, Mary Bishop Brookhart, Mrs. Susan Dunbar, Miss Anna McGuire, Mrs. Powell D. Garrison, Sue Garrison (West), Mrs. Fred A. Washburn, Heber O'Dell, Alice Lowe (White), Grace Lowe, ———, Mrs. J. S. Bowden, J. S. Bowden, ————, Mrs. Emily D. Bandy, Mrs. W. B. Johnson, Margaret Bandy (Baine), ————, Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, A. L. Garrison, Baker Bandy, A. L. Garrison, Jr., Mrs. A. L. Garrison, and the Rev. Abram Nightingale.

EARLY DAYS OF WOMEN'S SOCIETY

This portion will deal briefly with the Women's Society of the early years of the church. In those days it was called "Ladies Aid". After reading minutes of this group from the early 1900's, we have decided that is the proper name, due to the fact the church building would not have had roof repairs, new flooring, new hymn books, social events which brought men, women and children together at any time other than regular church meetings and Sunday School. These get--togethers also brought in ALL the community, for food and fellowship. The small amounts of money accumulated from these events were often used to supplement the meager salary of the minister, too.

Some of the earliest mentioned of the women's group and its activities are here quoted: CROSSVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT, Dec. 14, 1898: "The ladies of the Congregational Church gave an ice cream social Tuesday night. About $4 was taken in."

From minutes of early 1900's and to 1912, we find: "$23.21 was made at the chicken supper; with the expense being $6.25"; "Over $15 was taken in at the lawn social held on the Bishop lawn last week"; "our 'apron' social cleared quite a goodly sum"; "Proceeds from 'How Tall Are You?' idea created much fun and brought in a neat sum for our treasury."

The picture accompanying this article is of a group, from this church, and we believe it shows part of the members of the FIRST Ladies Aid to be organized in this county.

In the group, left to right: front row are Mrs. Briel, Mrs. Lisk, Mrs. Wickersham; middle row, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. W. B. Johnson, Mrs. G. H.

(Mattie) Post, Mrs. Mary Peck; back row, Mrs. S. C. Bishop, Mrs. H. V. B. Smith, Mrs. W. S. DeGolia. From memory, and with the aid of my mother, Mrs. Bishop, who is one of two still living, who appear in this picture, I shall endeavor to tell something about each.

Mrs. Briel was the mother of Mrs. Frank Deters. Frank and his father, Joseph, came from Louisville, Ky., opened and managed the Stave Mill, which is now the Handle Mill owned and operated by Turner-Day, Woolworth Handle Co. Their homes stood across Webb Avenue from the mill; one of which has been torn down for the shed of the Handle Company; the other still stands. Later Frank and family lived in the house opposite the V. L. Lewis property, next door to the W. F. Bandy place on Braun Avenue. The Deters (Frank) had a large family and grandmother was lots of help in caring for them. She, her daughter, and even some of the grandchildren are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Lisk, four daughters, Jessie, Lula, Pearle and Katherine. and a son Bert, lived in a house on the site of the present home of Mrs. Keyes-Harrison. All the girls but Miss Katherine were married here. Miss Katherine was a fine seamstress and you did not have a really nice dress until she made it. After the death of her parents, she moved to Knoxville, near her sister, Jessie. The son, Bert was a special crony of the late Mark Dunbar, and if they were compatible, there was surely a pair.

Mrs. Wickersham was related to the West family, in fact a half-sister of the late M. W. West, father of Benj. H., and the late Del West. When her daughter married Ed Wight, who then owned and operated a barber shop, (in the Cline building which stood on the corner where the Sanders Esso Station now is), moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, she went with them.

Mrs. Morgan, a widow, who went into many homes to care for mother and baby at birthing-time, was just as kindly as the picture shows her.

Mrs. Johnson, wife of the gentleman who is responsible for many folk having so many interesting pictures, served as president, and secretary of the Aid, for many years. The last picture her husband took, in which she appears is on page

Mrs. Post, wife of the minister George H. Post, who came here in 1900, lived in the house opposite where W. M. Hedgecoth lives on North Webb Avenue. She lives in Tampa, Florida, and will soon be 90 years of age. She is one of two in the group still living.

Mrs. Peck, with an only son, Willie, who came here during the influx of families from the North, lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Henry, also on North Webb Avenue. When I asked my mother what she did, she replied, "She didn't have to work, but was active in church and social activities." She was last heard from in 1913 when she wrote a post card from Sawtelle, California, to my late aunt, Mrs. S. C. Cline.

Mrs. Bishop, widow of the late Editor of the CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE, makes her home at the May Wharton Home in Pleasant Hill. She had her 95th birthday last February. She does not see or hear as well as she once did, but is mentally very alert; and has been of much assistance in compiling portions of these articles. She is the only other living person shown in this picture; Mrs. Post being the other.

Mrs. Smith was Bessie Wilcox, wife of Harry V. B. Smith. Their marriage (according to micro-film), was one of the earliest to

take place in the church building about which I have been writing. After the Smith family left here they lived in New Mexico; both he and she have passed on many years ago. Their children, four daughters, are living in the West, and there are grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mrs. Smith was a charter member of The Art Circle.

Mrs. DeGolia — Completing the group in the picture — this lady is remembered by more persons of today, than any other one perhaps, (with the exception of Mrs. Bishop). The DeGolia home stood where the La Frances building now is, and many remember the huge big window on the front in which appeared many lovely and unusual flower arrangements and other interesting articles which the family shared with all. Her husband, Dr. W. S. DeGolia was only 51 when he died; she lived to reach the age of 92. Her daughters, Miss Fannie DeGolia, is Senior Assistant Cashier at the First National Bank; Mrs. Lelah D. Martin is Registrar-at-large for the County Election Commission.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Abram Nightingale, beginning in 1924, the group took the name of Ladies Guild and continued to provide much of the 'extras' which included home and foreign mission donations as well as many other needed material items.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION SCHOOL
This is the only picture that could be found which surely includes some of the earliest pupils of this school.

THE AMA SCHOOL

By Agnes Lee Garrison Dorton

This is written in tribute to a small school whose sessions ended many years ago, to the teachers who taught, and to the pupils who listened and learned so well.

No history of the Congregational Church in Crossville would be complete without mention that this building, built in 1888, housed the

first "free school" in Crossville. Until that year there had been a private school in the Webster Academy building. The younger children, as a rule, were taught at home. The teachers were poorly trained and the attendance irregular.

In the article on schools in "CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS" we find "Education took a big step forward in 1888 with the opening of the school in the newly-built Congregational Church. The American Missionary Association (which since 1884 had sponsored Pleasant Hill Academy) paid half of the construction cost and sent two college graduates, Prof. Cameron and Mrs. Barron, as teachers for the 'free school' term, which lasted from September to Christmas. From New Year's until June tuition was charged. All grades through the tenth were included and a graduate was eligible for a teaching certificate. S. C. Cline was the first to hold a teaching certificate and he taught in this school as did Tom Brown and later Miss Fannie DeGolia held a kindergarten."

Prof. J. S. Cline, (brother of Mrs. S. C. Bishop), for many years Superintendent of this county's schools, stated in an article in the CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE in 1933: "During these earlier years, schools were only of three or four months duration. For a number of years, however, at the Congregational Church, I taught teachers and others for nine months of the year. In my classes were Browns, Millers, Hinches, Wheelers, Renfroes, Bakers, Keyes, Davenports, Selbys, and many, many others."

In the CROSSVILLE TIMES, of March 1889, we read: "The AMA School is progressing finely under the able management of Prof. J. W. Dorton and every day adds to its already large enrollment." Prof. Dorton's roll of pupils was given with their grades and deportment in this same issue as follows:

AMA School—March 1, 1889: Joshua Beyers, Ursula Beyers, Thomas Brown, Ollie Brown, Laura Beadle, Lilly Beadle, Schuyler Cline, Mark Dunbar, Robin Dunbar, Amy Dunbar, Maude Dunbar, Annie Dickson, Helen Dickson, Kate Deatherage, Gerty Deatherage, Jos. Hatfield, John Hatfield, Jerry Hayden, Virgil Hamby, Annie Kearley, Ellen Kearley, Chas. Keyes, John Leland, Zoe Leland, Herbert Lisk, Lula Lisk,

Mary Martin, Harry Martin, Annie Pendleton, Jessie Pendleton, Naomi Pendleton, Calla Perry, Alice Renfro, Amanda Rose, Martha Rose, Ulysses Rose,, Lou Richards, Maggie Richards, Mary Swafford, Hattie Stewart, Eunice Scott, George Stevens, James Snodgrass, Mary Tracy, Kate Tracy, Margaret Tracy, Bessie Wilcox, Mary Wilcox, Nellie Wilcox, Kittie Way, Stitzel Way, Lola Webb, Belle Webb, Susie Wickersham, John Tracy, Clarence Turner, Edward Proctor.

Grant Holloway, Arthur Keyes, Minnie Keyes, Vincent Hamby, Norman Forbes, Maggie Forbes, Bea Forbes, Mae Dunbar, Harry Beadle, Archie Beadle, Percy Beadle, Frank Peck, Emmett Kearley, Andrew Patton, Clinton Wilcox, William Taylor, Pierre Remington, Baker Stevens, Tina Stevens, Jessie Lisk, Robert Hamby, Jennie Hayley, Clayton Hayley, William Hayley, Wallace Elder, Horace Dickerson, Robert Dickerson, Mattie Deatherage, Clara Deatherage.

Later lists of pupils included the names of Carlisle Tollett, Edgar Snodgrass, Ethel Keyes, Eula Bishop, Cora Bishop, Verna Garrison, A. L. Garrison, Maude Garrison, Pearl Elmore, Kilah Smith, Nellie Snodgrass,

Jonas Snodgrass, William Garrison, Mary Snodgrass, Eliza Carrick, Nellie Monroe, Ruby Dunbar, Myrtle Hamby, Hattie Garrison, Preston Burnett, Baxter Burnett, Lelah DeGolia, David Snodgrass, Ben West, Gertie West, Susie Dunbar, Lillian England, Lydia Geer, and many more.

A headline in the CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE of June 1, 1898 stated: THEY GRADUATED WITH HONORS, and we quote from the article:

"The commencement exercises of Cumberland Normal College in the Congregational Church last Thursday evening was a decided success. The event was a particularly pleasing one because it was the first graduating exercises in the history of the college."

The article goes on, in two full-length columns, to describe the beautiful decorations, the crowd that filled the church and stood outside the windows looking in; the music that was furnished by Harry Beadle, R. R. Dunbar, and Ed Wight on violins and guitar, and the program in detail.

On the platform were the Principal, Prof. Moody, Leon Burnett, W. J. Hodges, J. M. Proctor, Supt. DeRossett, and the graduates who were Miss Mary Tracy, Miss Amy Dunbar, Oliver Moody, A. L. Garrison, Miss Bessie Baker, and Arthur Keyes.

Ushers were Misses Minnie Keyes, Grace Smith, Arminta Garrison and Pina Hudson. Baskets of beautiful flowers were presented the graduates by Fannie DeGolia and Rhoda Dunbar.

The "Literary Society" programs were a popular and educational form of entertainment during these years. Many of our present day citizens remember those Friday night meetings in the school with the students and others of the town appearing on the program. A typical one is taken from the CROSSVILLE TIMES of 1889:

1. Music
2. Essay—Miss Naomi Pendleton
3. Declamation—Harry Martin
4. Recitation—Miss Bessie Wilcox
5. Violin Solo—Miss Lola Webb
6. Essay—George W. Cline
7. Debate — Question: Resolved that the Razorback should not be allowed to run at large at Crossville. (The negative side won—C. E. Snodgrass and Allie Dixon).

These programs always ended with a debate and some of the other questions resolved were: "That love is the strongest and most common principle in life"; "That navigable rivers are of more benefit than railroads"; "That the right of suffrage be granted to women"; "That the signs of the times indicate the downfall of the nation"; "That ignorance is more productive of crime than poverty"; "That corporal punishment is justified"; and "That the different professions should be practiced as commonly by women as men".

From the CROSSVILLE TIMES of March 15, 1890, we found this item: "Challenge — The Crossville Literary Society challenges all ye spellers in open battle for the championship of Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee, or of the world, Friday evening, March 15. Contest open to all." In the next issue we found that Miss Zoe Leland, Miss Mary Tracy, and John Tracy were the last to leave the floor.

That the years have brought many changes and great progress to the public school system of our county is evidenced by the beautful and modern new county high school building now in use here.

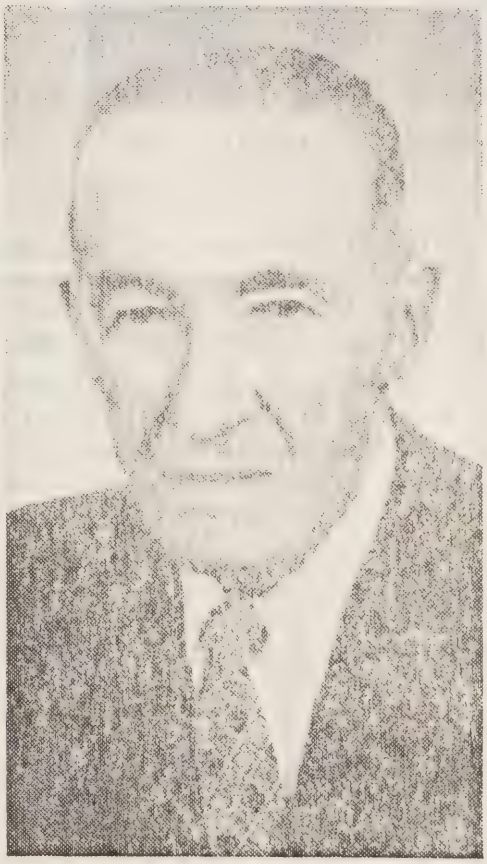
Seventy-five years have gone by since that first small building opened its doors to the children of Cumberland County and the service it rendered cannot be estimated. Among those who received training there during the more than twenty-five years it served, are many able and distinguished men and women.

Some became ministers, doctors, lawyers, educators, and statesmen. One went on to the Congress of the United States, (C. E. Snodgrass); another became the head of a great state university law school, (John Tracy). Among them was a lieuntenant governor of the state of Tennessee, (A. L. Garrison), also a West Point graduate who became a colonel in the U. S. Army, (Edgar H. Snodgrass).

These are but a few of the many students becoming the able citizens who, with their vision, faith, and courage, helped to build this community in which we now live.

Rings Bell For First Service

Harry E. Beadle, who makes his home at a rest home, rang the church bell for the first service held in the church, evidently prior to the actual dedication. Mr. Beadle was present at the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary observance in October.



HARRY E. BEADLE

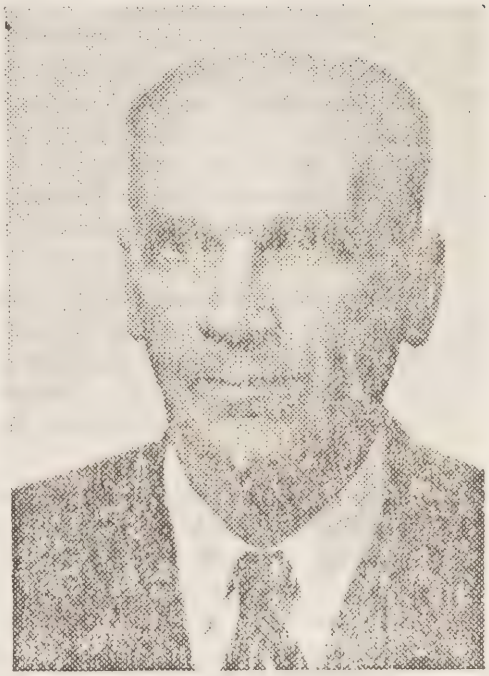
THE NIGHTINGALE ERA

By Mrs. Evelyn Bandy Jones

Dedicated to Abram Nightingale

'What is his creed? We do not know;
We only know that here below
He walks the common road, lifts
many a load
Lightens the task, brightens the way
His creed"?
We care not what his creed.
Enough that never yields he to greed,
But helps his brother in his daily
need;
Plucks many a thorn, plants many
a flower,
Glorifies the service of each hour
Has faith in God, himself and
fellowmen.
Perhaps he never thinks in terms
of creed.
We only know he lives a life in
deed."

– By Mrs. Edward (Rose) Turnbull



Rev. Abram Nightingale
(taken in 1950)

The 1949 year book of the Ladies Guild of the First Congregational Church was dedicated to the Rev. Abram Nightingale, in special observance of his twenty-fifth year as pastor of the church. It seems fitting that the following poem which appeared in the year book should preface this article:

On May 11, 1924, Rev. F. P. Ensminger, Dist. Supt. held Mother's Day services, after which a business meeting was held to select a pastor, Mrs. G. L. Day's term being up. On motion it was decided to call a minister from Salisbury, N. C., but he was unable to come, so Mrs. Day acted as supply pastor for six weeks.

On July 13, 1924, Rev. Ensminger preached, holding a business meeting after service. On motion, the church extended a unanimous call, through Mr. Ensminger, to Rev. A. Nightingale then in North Dakota, for the ensuing year, commencing on Sept. 20, 1924. This marked the beginning of 32 years of faithful service to the church, individuals, and the entire community,—in ways too numerous to record.

Here we quote in Mr. Nightingale's own words: "My arrival was on Sept. 20, 1924, at about two A. M. on the Tennessee Central. I stayed the remainder of the night at the Hotel Taylor. The next day I went to board at Mrs. Nancy Taylor's in Mrs. Susie Dunbar's house. On Sunday, Sept. 22, 1924, I preached my first sermon. It was a hot September day, I remember Mrs. Lelah DeGolia walking up to the church carrying a parasol and then having a nice fan which she used in church. I think White Bandy was the only person to come with a car that day.

"The Percy Beadles took care of the church. The Sunday School teachers were Charles Comstock, Mrs. Mimi Dunbar, Miss Fannie DeGolia and Mrs. U. S. Rose. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bowden, W. B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Comstock, Mrs. Lowe, Percy Beadle and others were in the Bible Class. Mr. White Bandy led the singing. Fay played for church and Mildred Beadle for Sunday School."

As of January 7, 1925, there were sixty-seven church members. Officers were as follows: Board of Trustees: W. F. Bandy, Charles Comstock, U. S. Rose. Board of Deacons: W. F. Bandy, P. V. Beadle, Powell Garrison, Waldo Dunbar. Board of Deaconesses: Mrs. S. C. Cline and Mrs. Lelah DeGolia. Clerk: Mrs. W. B. Bandy. Sunday School Superintendent J. S. Bowden; Assistant, Mrs. Mimi Dunbar; and Sunday School Secretary, Mrs. P. V. Beadle.

At a church meeting on February 4, 1926, plans were made to incorporate the church—"The Congregational Church Building Society will turn the present building over to this church in that event, maintaining only the valuation of the church as their interest. It was thought best to incorporate, as it gives us the privilege of disposing of the building, etc. in case we so wish."

In May of 1928, at a regular church meeting, it was moved and seconded that on the first Sunday in each month the members be divided into groups and go to the country to meet with the Sunday Schools. A committee was appointed to select places and make arrangements. Also a motion was adopted that the church membership, Sunday School and Guild give ten dollars toward educational and wholesome amusement at the County Fair. A standing vote of thanks was extended Rev. Nightingale for his efficient services of the past year.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Tennessee Conference of the Congregational Church was held for the first time here on October 9-11, 1929. The Rev. George L. Day was Moderator, and the welcome was given by A. L. Garrison, Sr. The following churches were represented: Memphis, Chattanooga, Robbins, Soddy, Pleasant Hill, Demorest, Ga., Washington, D. C., Big Stone Gap, Va., Nashville and Crossville. Much interest was manifested in the topics discussed during the conference, and a spirit of harmony and good fellowship prevailed.

One of the outstanding events of the church on Sept. 25, 1938 was the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. After the regular annual business meeting, a delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the church to a large crowd, including a number of out-of-town visitors. Rev. Nightingale spoke with feeling of the congregation and the community during the fourteen years of his pastorate here.

Again, in October of 1938, the church was host to the twenty-third annual meeting of the Tennessee Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, with a large attendance.

At a business meeting on December 29, 1946 plans were discussed for buying a Hammond organ, and referred to the Music Committee. Mrs. George Brookhart reported on September 20, 1951 that $1125 had either been paid or pledged on the organ fund. This amount delivered to the church door the Estey organ, which is still in use.

Mr. Nightingale, always especially interested in the young people of the church, suggested in September of 1951 that they start meeting at his home on Sunday evenings. This was the start of many enjoyable

and worthwhile hours for the young folk, which was to be organized later as the Pilgrim Fellowship group. Also, not to be forgotten, were many evenings of adult fellowship, interesting discussions, and refreshments which he had prepared—anything from a "snack" to a sumptuous dinner.

In September, 1954 the Men's Club of the church sponsored a drive for funds to give Mr. Nightingale a much deserved trip to Europe, which became a reality with his departure on June 10, 1955. He was welcomed back to the pulpit on the first Sunday in September, 1955 and reported a most enjoyable trip. Services were held each Sunday during his absence by laymen, visiting ministers, and the Youth group. (Due to the admiration for him of many in the community, contributions from outside the church were accepted for his European trip.)

A Laymen's Rally for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference was held on Nov. 13, 1954 at the church, with good attendance and an inspiring and interesting program. Taking part on the program were Walter A. Graham, National Director for the Laymen's Fellowship, and Erston M. Butterfield, Executive Secretary of the Southeast Convention of Congregational-Christian Churches.

On September 21, 1955, Mr. Nightingale appointed a Building Committee, which eventually resulted in our new church, which was finished in 1961. Sept. 26, 1956 a motion was passed that the Trustees appoint a Budget and Every Member Canvass Committee of the church. After several meetings of this committee the first Every-Member Canvass was held on Sunday, October 28, 1956.

Mr. Nightingale announced on Sept. 26, 1956, that he felt the time had come for him to retire from the active ministry, effective December 31, 1956. With deep reluctance, his resignation was accepted. However, on January 2, 1957, he was given the status of Pastor Emeritus, and accepted the position of interim minister until the pulpit could be filled by a regular minister.

In May, of 1957, it was voted, without dissent that Rev. Harold Wiley Freer, Spiritual Life Clinic Director of Cleveland, Ohio, be called to the pastorate of the church. Mr. Freer is a close friend of Mr. Nightingale, having visited him here for the first time and delivered the morning message on the second Sunday in August, 1937. He continued to come back every year since that time, being a very welcome speaker Sunday mornings, and often bringing special messages during Holy Week. He assumed his duties as pastor of the church on July 1, 1957.

NIGHTINGALE'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

When the First Congregational Church observed the twenty-fifth year of the pastorate of the Rev. Abram Nightingale, many personal messages were received from friends, both near and far. The following letter came to the Ladies Guild of the church from a friend in China, and it could well express the thoughts of many other persons:

" When I think of Crossville, I think first of Mr. Nightingale. That I know for a fact, is the sentiment of countless others who live in other parts of the world, and having had the privilege of traveling through Tennessee from time to time. Mr. Nightingale is certainly the First Citizen of Crossville. He is also the friendly host for the traveler — whether it be a frightened and hungry boy hitch-hiking back home, or the Prince of the Church on grand tour.

"By reading your program I note how Mr. Nightingale's spirit of friendly service has become the spirit of your Guild. It would be an interesting and thrilling study to discover a few of the many ways in which Mr. Nightingale has introduced the spirit of Christ into the common life of Crossville and the neighboring country side. A first some of his ways sounded strange and distressing. Now he has lived long enough in the town for his neighbors to understand his heart."

It is amazing how much time he found to devote to community projects in addition to his church work. Some of his first projects included a hot lunch program for the schools, creating a greater interest in health and sanitation (i.e. free typhoid innoculations for the public); sharing his knowledge about pruning and spraying fruit trees, providing materials, garden seeds, and always willing to lend a hand with the actual work.

His first home here, which was located at the corner of Second Street and West Avenue, was a "home away from home" for several young men, who "boarded" with him during the 1933-35 depression years so they could go to high school or work on the Cumberland Homestead project, for which they paid him a small fee, plus helping with his vegetable garden, and other chores.

Quoting from an article written by Helen Krechniak (by her permission), "His home was also known as the 'Little U.S.O.' because of his generous hospitality to the servicemen during the war years. Mr. Nightingale acted as service chairman for the U. S. O., and spent many hours at the center looking after their needs."

On the walls of his home hung several paintings which were given him by German and Italian prisoners of war, who were befriended by him when they were quartered near here.

Through Mr. Nightingale's pastorate, he made the church building available to the community in many ways. During the depression years he and the late Mrs. Paul Ervin supervised a peach canning project, which were distributed to the needy through the American Legion Auxiliary, (they having furnished the materials). Also, during this period, the Sunday School rooms were used as a distribution point for clothing furnished by the American Red Cross for the needy. He was very ably assisted in this work by Mrs. Charles (Dolly) Comstock. The Sunday School rooms again served as offices for the Cumberland Homestead project for several months, until offices could be built. Mr. Nightingale was one of the original members of this Homesteads committee.

For sometime the Seventh Day Adventists were permitted use of the building for their services until a church of their own could be constructed. Also, the Mormon, Catholic, and Episcopal Churches held meetings and conventions there.

The building was also the scene of many Music Club meetings, and dinners which he served (with the help of the ladies of the church), and the Exchange Club, Business & Professional Womens Club, and many more, too numerous to mention. His fame as a cook was known far and wide, from the Pilgrim Fellowship Camp at Grandview through the years of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Congregationalists—even at the local hospital here before qualified dietitians could be employed. He also served there as the first Chaplain, giving spiritual guidance when needed, and performing many personal services to patients—no job, regardless of its nature, ever seemed to bother him.

Mr. Nightingale's spirit of generosity was known to all—especially to those who attempted to give him something personal on special occasions, because it was characteristic of him to pass his gifts along to someone else. On the anniversary of his 25th year as Pastor, he was given a beautiful stone lectern and as the donors said "It was the first thing we've been able to give him that he couldn't loan or give away."

This could go on and on, about the many worthwhile activities and services of this unusual man, but space does not permit here; in fact, an entire book could be written about what he did in our county alone.

Mr. Nightingale now divides his time with his two sisters in New Jersey, and he writes that he feels fortunate to be able to work every day—and the word comes from there that he is still baking, and raising lovely flowers which have cheered many a heart—just as he did here

"The Ladies Aid" to "Womens Fellowship"

1909 - 1962

By Mrs. William M (Jessie Y.) Norton

Organized in the early days of the church as The Ladies Aid, this society has continued to play a vital part in the church to the present time. The data has been gleaned from old minute books, some of which are regrettably missing, but perhaps this will give an over-all picture of the work of the women of the church.

April 1, 1909—Officers elected were: President, Mrs. W. B. Johnson; Vice-President, Mrs. Briel; Secretary, Mrs. W. F. Bandy; Treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Schlicher. $1.10 was collected for aprons sold by the society.

A treasurer's report for April 15 mentions $2.50 paid for team for picnicking purposes.

April 20, the society met with Mrs. S. C. Bishop and the afternoon was spent in piecing quilts. This was done on other following meetings.

October 31, called meeting was held at the home of Mrs. DeGolia to plan help for a family at Pomona. Those present were Mrs. Briel, Mrs. J. M. Johnson, Mrs. DeGolia, Mrs. W. B. Johnson and Mrs. Peck. Mrs. DeGolia and Mrs. Dunbar were appointed to find out the needs of the family and permission given to secure the needed materials.

February 17, 1910 the ladies reported $31.50 made by serving meals during court week. And an item of $15 paid for parsonage furniture appears in the early report.

April 21, 1910—Trustees of the church asked the Ladies' Aid Society for a loan of $20 to pay off balance of a note for papering the church and it was granted with the understanding that it be a LOAN to be paid off as soon as possible. The treasurer's report for that year reported $53.92 in the bank.

September 29, 1910—Lining, batting and thread to finish a quilt was purchased for 75 cents and the quilt was sold to Mrs. Frank Deters for $3.00. In October it was decided at a call meeting to have a dime social, proceeds to go toward repairing the church. The amount was $13.56. A lawn social at about this time netted $17.80 which bought a carpet

for the pulpit and linoleum for around the stove. In December a called meeting was held to decide about a gift for the pastor and family. $5.00 to the pastor and $2.00 for a basket of goodies and a quilt for the children and to Mrs. McKay the quilt which was on hand.

At a meeting on February 23, 1911, Mr. McKay spoke on the Christian Endeavor and its work, and asked members help with the work for the young people in the church. On Mary 18, Mrs. McKay read a story entitled, "No Sect In Heaven", and it was so greatly enjoyed that hope was expressed that she would read at each meeting. The end of the year saw 14 members enrolled in the society and $80.85 collected during the year.

June 29, 1911, the Society voted to pay for paint for church, $21.68, and to pay Birch Wheeler for doing the work. A lawn social was given at this time and the proceeds were $6.60 . Also $5 was given for the Christian Endeaver. In December it was voted to meet only once a month during the cold weather.

March 11, 1912—Plans were made for a millinery social and also for an Easter social for the children of the Sunday School. A committee was appointed to secure someone to repair the church roof and the Society to pay for same. In April Miss Hollister addressed the Society on the subject of The Women's Christian Temperance Union. Bill for repairs of the church was $3.65 and it was moved to pay Percy Beadle for same. It was also moved that Ben West be employed to make repairs to the belfry. Since more money was needed it was voted to have a swap social, the admission to be 15 cents.

January 1913—The Aid moved to buy new flooring for the church and Mr. McKay was appointed to have Percy Beadle do the work. The cost of flooring was $44.67. In November 1914 the Aid voted $50 for concrete walk to be paid for out of funds on hand and some collected as gifts.

May 19, 1917—The Aid adjourned till the war would be over and direct its efforts toward the Red Cross.

May 1920—The pastor, Mr. Newton, was made an honorary member of the Aid. It was voted that each member pay 5 cents dues for the missionary society making the total 15 cents. It is gathered from these records that this was for each meeting and the Society met twice a month. In October 1920 it was voted to install electric lights in the church, the Aid Society to bear the expense.

This closes the years from 1909 to 1920. Members whose names appear in the record of these fruitful years are: Mrs. W. F. Bandy, Mrs. S. C. Bishop, Mrs. Harry Beadle, Mrs. Percy Beadle, Mrs. Briel, Mrs. Emily Bandy, Mrs. Susie Dunbar, Mrs. Frank Deters, Mrs. Joseph Deters, Mrs. DeGolia, Mrs. Converse, Mrs. Comstock, Mrs. S. C. Cline, Mrs. A. L. Garrison, Mrs. J. S. Garrison, Mrs. W. B. Johnson, Mrs. J. M. Johnson, Mrs. Julian, Mrs. Pearson Hayes, Mrs. Mooney, Mrs. March, Mrs. McCart, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Peck, Mrs. G. A. Schlicher, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Wallace.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD 1926 - 1935

April 8, 1926—Mr. Nightingale now enters the picture and at this meeting he opened it with prayer and reading from the scriptures. Officers elected were: President, Mrs. Maude Moore; Vice-President, Mrs. Eva Bishop; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Flora Rose. Retiring secretary, Mrs.

DeGolia turned over the sum of $34.28 to the treasury. Each member was asked to earn one dollar in addition to their regular work and at a meeting to tell how they did it. A food sale at the city market in December netted $12.50 which was paid for coal and it was voted at this meeting to loan the trustees money to put a new roof on the church and to finish the inside. Members added to the roll were Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, Mrs. Parham, Mrs. Beadle, Mrs. G. F. Brookhart, and Mrs. Bristow.

May 26, 1927—The Ladies' Aid voted to put in lights for Mr. Nightingale, (this was in his old home). It was also voted on June 23 that Mr. Nightingale be allowed to insure the church for whatever amount he thought best. Mr. Nightingale was conducting the devotionals and members were responding with scripture verses. $8 was allowed for tuning the piano.

September 1, 1927—The Ladies' Aid has now become The Ladies' Guild. A luncheon served to the Exchange Club brought $18.75 to the treasury. $25.00— one-fourth of our missionary pledge, was voted paid at the October meeting of that year. This year $25 was set aside for a Christmas gift for Mr. Nightingale, each member to pay 25 cents, and $6.75 was paid to Mr. Nightingale for interest on a note. A bazaar held at this time brought in $64.95. It was voted the president give out ten Bible questions at each meeting and that Mr. Nightingale grade the papers containing the answers. Mrs. Flora Rose is now secretary and she reports Mrs. Washburn turned over $4.45 for flowers which she had made. A bazaar at this time netter $64.95.

1928 — $56.25 was received from the Exchange Club for three suppers served by the Guild. At this time too it was decided to buy a church seal. It was voted to send $10 each month for missions. In May the Exchange Club paid $37.50 for two suppers served them. And in July $10. Mr. Nightingale was paid $60 for church repairs. (This appears to have been a loan). $10 was appropriated toward the expenses of delegates to a church convention at Memphis. On February 14, 1929, Mrs. Bishop was honored as her birthday fell on the 16th and she had served as president of the society two years. A gift of an electric percolator was presented on its behalf by Miss Eileen Brookhart, her granddaughter.

Mrs. Agnes Lee Dorton, Mrs. Helen Ledford and Miss Fannie DeGolia were accepted as members. The Guild offered to assist in fixing the side of the church but thought it best for the men to decide how it should be done. Mrs. Conant was made an honorary member. A banquet served the Scouts brought $22.75.

February 13, 1930—A vote was taken to pay $50 toward the church budget. A bill for $22.50 for stage curtains was ordered paid. Invitations were given and accepted during the era with the Get-Together Club at Pleasant Hill. Annual bazaars were a source of considerable revenue.

Mission study now enters the scene. Mrs. Bishop is secretary and Mrs. Washburn president. (1931) Donations to Ministerial Relief were being made at this time. February 11, Mrs. Neil B. Spahr, Mrs. W. C. Moore and Dr. May Wharton were guests and Mrs. Spahr gave a talk on "The Woman's Place in the Community." In August, 1930 sorrow visited the Guild in the passing of Mrs. Charles (Dollie) Comstock and H. J. Dunbar, the husband of Mrs. Mimi Dunbar.

Mrs. Brookhart was hostess on Nov. 16, 1932 with a spend-the-day meeting to sew for the needy. The Guild gave $3 toward medicine for

a child "bitten by a dog". Mrs. S. C. Cline is tireless in her work for the bazaars. The growing racial problem is engaging the attention of the members. "Hospital Day" at Uplands was on the agenda and vote taken to send gifts. Another spend-the-day party was held at the home of Mrs. W. F. Bandy on Sept. 14, 1933, and quilt blocks for a dresden china plate pattern were made. Members present at this meeting were: Mesdames Bishop, Cline, DeGolia, Powell Garrison, Lester Bandy, R. L. Lyons, A. J. McGuire, Sanders, Reed, Washburn, Beadle, Miss Anna McGuire, Mr. Nightingale and guests were: Mrs. V. L. Lewis, Miss Brewer and Mrs. W. C. Moore of Cookeville. Mrs. Cline turned over a check for $40 received for quilts sent to Chicago Sept. 28, 1933. Mrs. A. J. McGuire is now president. Mrs. F. H. (Edith) Washburn was appointed chairman of "Women's Work" of the state.

1934—$15.00 was given for two students at Pleasant Hill. In February The Guild and The Art Circle entertained the Get-Together Club of Pleasant Hill with a luncheon and members of the Book Lovers Club of Cookeville were guests. Mrs. Susie Dunbar is now president; Mrs. E. W. Mitchell program chairman.

1935 — Mrs. R. L. (Ethel) Lyons elected president. Ladies now are working on hooked rugs. Chances sold brought $1.50 and Mr. Nightaingale drew the lucky number. On October 15, Rev. C. C. Haun, director of religious education at Cumberland Homesteads, was guest of the Guild and led a round table discussion of the plebscite being sponsored by the Congregational Churches throughout the United States.

1942—Members: Mrs. W. F. Bandy, Mrs. H. E. Beadle, Mrs. S. C. Bishop, Mrs. G. F. Brookhart, Mrs. S. C. Cline, Mrs. Lelah DeGolia, Miss Fannie DeGolia, Mrs. M. E. Dorton, Mrs. Susan Dunbar, Mrs. William Garrison, Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, Mrs. A. J. McGuire, Miss Anna McGuire, Mrs. R. N. Pelot, Mrs. H. V. Sanders, Mrs. C. J. Wright, Rev. Abram Nightingale, Mrs. Lelah Martin, Mrs. O. M. Fogle, Mrs. J. A. Odom, Mrs. William Jones, Mrs. E. R. Walker, Mrs. Senter, Mrs. Joseph Krechniak, Mrs. Margaret Allen, Mrs. C. C. Simonton, Mrs. P. A. Ervin, Mrs. A. L. Garrison.

Records from 1920 to 1926 were not available so we now come to 1942. Reverend Abram Nightingale is pastor of the church and Mrs. S. C. Bishop is president of the Guild. Mrs. H. V. Sanders is secretary. In the minutes of June, 1942 it is noted that a state officer, Mrs. Kreuger had used this society as an example as her aid and helper. And now appears "Friendly Service" with gifts to be used outside the local church. The Second World War now enters the picture with Mrs. J. S. Reed, executive secretary of the Red Cross asking for more workers and the Guild voted to meet at the Red Cross rooms twice a month to sew.

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BOYS IN THE SERVICE 1942-43

Lester Bandy, Baker Bandy, Paul A. Ervin, J., Phil Ervin, A. L. Garrison, John Haun, Joseph Haun, W. C. Moore, Jr., Ambrose Easterly, Ward Bandy, Donald Brookhart, Powell Garrison, Jr., Bill Jones, Donald Wilson, Bryce Potter, Jack Aldridge, J. D. Nixon, Pat Chandler, R. N. Pelot, Clinton Simonton, Robert Ellis, Henry O. Cox, Jr.

A silver tea on November 12th for Uplands Sanatorium at Pleasant Hill netted $20. Rev. Abram Nightingale and officers of the standing committees of the Guild received and served the guests. It was voted that this sum be used toward the furnishing of a room in memory of Mrs. Edith Conant Washburn.

February 24, 1942 marked the passing of a beloved member, Mrs. A. L. Garrison. Six new members were added to the roll. In November a silver tea netted $40 for the Edith Conant Washburn room at Uplands. Mission study is taking its place on the programs.

1943—Mrs. Bishop, the president, urged all members to make surgical dressings on Thursday nights. $5 was voted to fill comfort kits for men in the Service and the Guild voted to purchase a service flag and one dozen stars. Members planned to sew at the Red Cross rooms the third Wednesday in each month and supper served to the service men March 10th, with Mrs. W. F. Bandy planning the meal. Nine blue stars were placed on the service flag. A play, "The Universal Mother" was given by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Odom and Mrs. Sanders.

As a sign of the widening activity of the Society the minutes of September 23, 1945 note $5 given to the Cancer Fund and $5 to the Mary E. George fund. At a fellowship supper on October 28th, Mrs. Brookhart conducted a Bible questionnaire and Mr. Nightingale gave "Life Pointers" from the motion picture, "Gone With the Wind". It would not be possible to give all the details of study and activity through the months and years but "World Community Day" was observed on Nov. 11th and the program contained the review of an article from the Missionary Herald "Our Responsibility in Post War Europe" and one by Herbert Hoover, "Support Your Church." A gift of two lovely flags for church was made by Mrs. E. R. Walker. At a meeting at the home of Mrs. C. C. Haun on December 9th, $5 was given for TB seals.

Mrs. E. R. Walker succeeded Mrs. Bishop as president in 1944 and the Executive committee comprised in addition, Miss Fannie DeGolia, Mrs. John Odom, Mrs. Edward Turnbull and Mrs. M. E. Dorton. The Women's gift for this year amounted to $20. $15 was given to the Pleasant Hill Academy Senior Class fund. Mention is also made of the receipt of a letter of thanks for $20 sent to a family in the Oswego Refugee Camp. A benefit concert sponsored by the Guild and given by Arthur Heinrich, brought in $55 for Uplands as it annual memorial for Mrs. Edith Washburn.

In 1945 Mrs. Edward Turnbull was the president; here a dinner served by the Guild netted $35 for a payment on a new kitchen range for the church. There are now 21 service stars on the flag. Since in the history of the church, the Guild and the County, The Cumberland Homesteads plays its part, it seems pertinent here to note that at the meetings of July 12, 1945, Mrs. Paul Ervin was hostess; Mrs. Bishop read poems, by William Macy Stanton; Mrs. H. O. Cox gave a short talk on Mr. Stanton's work at the Homesteads, and Mrs. Ervin spoke on Early Life of the Homesteads. Mrs. Frank Foote spoke on "What Congregational People Are doing in UNRRA." Mr. Nightingale reviewed an article on "A Better World," from the Social Action magazine.

On August 9, 1945, Rev. Harold Freer of Westlake, Ohio, (who was to become our pastor many years later), reviewed a book, "The World, The Flesh and Father Smith", by Bruce Marshall.

Rummage sales now are mentioned as a source of revenue and a means of putting useful articles into circulation—a program which continues to the present time.

On November 8, 1945 the Guild entertained with a reception for Dr. and Mrs. Robert Metcalfe, newcomers to Uplands. This was also the time for the annual silver tea in memory of Mrs. Edith Conant Washburn. Over $56 was given for the work of the hospital.

Mrs. John Odom became president in 1946 and the programs of devotion, study and work would fill a separate book. Gifts for Mr. Nightingale who was moving into his new home, the annual Woman's Gift to the state conference and other items being possible as the treasurer, Miss DeGolia, reported a healthy $150 in the treasury.

This year death took two beloved members, Mrs. Harry E. (Verna Garrison) Beadle and Mrs. P. A. (Marie Clift) Ervin. Memorial tributes contained in the record book bear testimony to the affection in which they were held and the sorrow caused by their passing.

Mr. Nightingale was host to the Guild in May and he reported acknowledgement of quilts sent to war sufferers. Proceeds from a rummage sale were $9.25. Mr. Freer was a guest again at the August, 1946 meeting and reviewed "The Hucksters" by Frederick Waterman and a discussion of the book followed. Missionary speakers from Africa, China, Turkey and the Philippines addressed meetings during these months and years and the widening interest in world affairs continues to be made manifest. New names of members since 1942 include, Mrs. Thomas Conway, Mrs. Charles T. (Jessamine) Greenway, Mrs. Ben Hill and Mrs. Coleman Morgan. Mrs. Mimi Dunbar was president in 1947. When Mrs. Dunbar reviewed the book, "Those Who Walk Alone", it was voted to send $10 to the Leonard Wood Memorial for the eradication of leprosy. At this time also a layette for Finland was planned. One highlight of the year 1947, was a picnic at the Krechniak home at Ozone which was enjoyed by the members and guests. Mr. Nightingale's hospitality door is open wide to meetings and social gatherings for both church and Guild.

The silver tea for Uplands was also the scene of a welcome to Dr. and Mrs. Marion Young, Dr. Young a recent member of the hospital staff at Uplands. The Krechniak home was again the scene of a meeting in 1948. $5 was appropriated for canteen cards for the Veterans' Hospital at Murfreesboro.

The year 1949 was Mr. Nightingale's 25th one as pastor of this church and the Guild yearbook carried a silver cover in his honor. Mrs. Turnbull was now the president. The sum of $46.72 was granted for the screening of a home for a family in need of assistance. And the programs teem with guest speakers, book reviews and a continuing concern for the needs of others. In 1949 and again in 1950 death took two beloved and devoted members—Mrs. Mimi Dunbar and Miss Anna Emeline McGuire. Beautiful tributes to them appear in the records of this period.

In 1951 the names of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Evans and Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Seaton appear in these records. Mrs. C. C. Simonton is president, Mrs. Jonathan Evans, vice-president, Mrs. Edwin Reed, secretary, and Miss Fannie DeGolia, treasurer. Mrs. P. A. Ervin, Jr. and Mrs. Dexter Southard have become members.

This brings us to the need for a church organ and the tireless effort, led by Mrs. George F. (Mary Bishop) Brookhart, Guild president, to raise

the funds needed for this cause. It is needless to state that it was a success. $1125 being given which amount paid in full for the Estey organ still in use.

In January, 1952, a soap roundup for India was held and The Friendly Service committee was composed of Mrs. Ducey, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Ervin and Mrs. Bandy. This meeting was given to a study of Mexican migrant workers and the struggle for Mexico to attain a democracy comparable to our own. Mrs. C. C. Simonton was president. Used clothing for Korea and CARE packages are now mentioned. Mexico continued to be the subject of study and on March 13th Mrs. Brookhart reviewed the life of the Mexican composer and violinist J. Rosas, and Mrs. Sanders played his most famous composition, "Over the Waves". In July Miss Miriam Heermans, president of the women's division of the Congregational Christian Conference, gave a description of her trip through Mexico. The United Nations now enters the picture for consideration.

Race relations claim an ever increasing importance and in October, 1952, Mrs. C. C. Haun reports on her attendance at the ninth Annual Institute on Race Relations in Nashville.

Gift packages for service men who will be on the high seas at Christmas now are one of the Guild's projects.

Mr. Nightingale was host to the December meeting of the Guild and served a banquet of turkey and all the fixings. $20 was voted for gifts to two needy families. Officers nominated at this meeting were: Mrs. Jonathan Evans, president; Mrs. Edwin Reed, vice-president; Mrs. Edward Turnbull, secretary, and Miss Fannie DeGolia, treasurer.

April 22, 1953 marked the passing of one of the oldest and most beloved members, Mrs. Lelah DeGolia. (Her daughters, Mrs. Lelah Martin and Miss Fannie DeGolia are active members to the present time.)

In 1954 a growing interest in our hospital is noted in the furnishing of trees and decorations for the hospital and in the review of the book, "Doctor Woman of the Cumberlands", by Dr. May Wharton. Mrs. Edwin Reed is now president. The report for this year states that the church school staff is made up entirely of members of this organization. The Womens Fellowship gift was $35.00. A dinner served to the B&PW club netted $25 and a luncheon to the Legion Auxiliary $34.50. $50 was voted as a gift to Mr. Nightingale for his European trip.

Mrs. William Evans is now an active members and Mrs. William Boyce, Mrs. H. O. Cox and Mrs. William Norton joined in October, 1954. Also Mrs. Arthur Winston, wife of the hospital administrator. Mrs. E. L. Hollenburg is secretary. Hospital mending is one of the projects and on December 9th a meeting was held in connection with the hospital auxiliary for tihs purpose.

1955 there is now $252.55 in the treasury. Plans are under way for new draperies for the stage at the church and at this meeting a surprise food shower for Mrs. Nancy Taylor was given. Here it seems well to state that only a fraction of the work of the Friendly Service committee has been included in this survey which has of necessity been condensed. Mr. Nightingale continues to be the gracious host at Fellowship suppers and an inspiring leader of the devotions when attending the Guild. In May of this year a rummage sale brought $44.44 and $50 was given for an eye operation for Mrs. Taylor. A room was fitted in the parsonage for a nursery and an assistant for Mrs. Cline recommended. $15 was

given for the library drive fund. $25 was voted for hospital supplies for the Philippines and $15 toward purchase of hymn books for the Boys' Vocational School at Pikeville.

In January, 1956, $25.00 was given for supplies for the Ryder Hospital in Puerto Rico; $40 for groceries and clothing for needy families and $125 for the church building fund. $25 was given in February to sponsor a Girl Scout Troop and Mrs. Jack Reese became a member. In April Mr. Nightingale received $45 for B&PW dinners and it was voted to give $10 as a graduating gift to a boy in whom we were interested. The Woman's Gift was $62 and the Guild continued in cooperating with the Men's Fellowship in the observance of Family Night suppers. Mrs. Sanders is president. Mrs. Bishop celebrates her 90th birthday.t

Mrs. Cox was elected President in 1957 with Mrs. William Jones 1st vice-president and Mrs. Arthur Winston, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Norten, secretary, and Mrs. Simonton, treasurer. Mrs. Harold Freer became a member and $10 was sent to Mrs. Nancy Taylor instead of flowers as she had suffered a fall which resulted in fractured ribs. $15 was given for the library at this time.

The subject of an interesting meeting in January, 1958 was Japan and Mrs. Robert Scofield, whose parents were missionaries in Japan, reviewed the book, "The Cross and Crisis in Japan" by Ingelhart. In May the group went on record approving a Mental Health Clinic for Cumberland County and the ever-widening concern for others is reflected in another report of funds sent to Mexico, Greece and for Indian work in our own country. Mrs. Boyce succeeded Mrs. Cox as president. A pleasant event in the summer of 1958 was a picnic luncheon at the M. E. Dorton summer home on Dunbar Road. One of the outstanding speakers at Guild meetings was Dr. Art Cordona in November of this year who talked on his native Puerto Rico. $25 was appropriated at this meeting for Bibles to be sent to the Le Moyne School in Memphis, and linens and $25 was voted for the overseas Christmas fund.

The Christmas season has always been a "special" time for the Guild and the programs always included instrumental or recorded music and a variety of subjects suitable to this occasion.

Miss Heermans addressed us again in December, 1958 on her trip to Hawaii and showed many beautiful colored slides of the Islands. The first Mother-Daughter banquet was held in the church room in 1958 and is one of the favored activities to the present time. Among the "special" ceremonies of the meetings, and dedication of the Women's Gift is most impressive, bringing to attention as it does the "second mile" or the little extra in unselfish giving. Our Guild has been represented at spring rallies and regional conferences whenever and wherever possible. In June of this year, the Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship met at our church with a large and inspiring group of delegates and a fine speaker, K. C. Matthew, Presbyterian minister from India.

Guild members have been responsible for obtaining and arranging flowers for the church each Sunday. Contributions were made in 1959 for bedding and linens to Italy and a sum of money to Migrant Workers. Christian Social Action and Christian Education are studied and discussed at meetings. The planning meeting in September of this year was in the form of a pot-luck luncheon at the M. E. Dorton home with Mr. Dorton, Arthur Freer and Reverend Harold Freer also present. Mrs.

William Jones is now president. $25 was voted for Christmas and Easter recordings to be sent to the Marshall Islands, and $10 to the American Board of Missions, Boston. $25 also to Congregational Christian Service Committee and $25 for World Refugee Relief. The needy near at hand were not overlooked as money was given for that purpose too. Guild members have drawn names of individual boys at the Training school near Pikeville in order to send the Christmas packages.

In 1960 Mrs. S. C. Bishop was made an honorary member as her advancing years prevented her being an active one. Mrs. S. P. Seaton whose long service as a missionary in China, and beautiful music has made her a most valuable member, has displayed for sale many fascinating items of Chinese Refugee craftsmanship. On April 14, 1960 Reverend Abram Nightingale appears for the last time in these records as giving a program for the society. The subject was "Evangelism and Spiritual Life", and he was introduced by Mrs. Harold Freer. A silent tribute to a beloved departed member, Mrs. W. F. Bandy was given at the May meeting. Her daughter, Mrs. H. V. Sanders, carries on with the same loyal, untiring devotion to Guild work. A Father-Son banquet is next to receive the sponsorship of the Guild and the proceeds from this went to the Building Fund.

Our dear Mrs. S. C. Cline, whose care of the nursery, had meant so much to the church was called by death on March 1, 1961, and the sum of $10 was set aside as a memorial for the nursery in the new church. Mrs. W. P. Kirkeminde was elected president for that year to be succeeded by Mrs. Edward Turnbull who is now serving.

The June meeting 1961 was at the Seaton home, members and guests were privileged to see and enjoy the many articles collected by Dr. and Mrs. Seaton while in the Orient. This was the John Odom's 30th wedding anniversary and Mrs. Odom was presented with a corsage. A Book Fair this year brought $36.47 to the treasury and gratitude was expressed to both Banks, Mr. Freer and Mr. Boyce for help given to this project. The Guild gave sums to the pews for the new church in memory of two members, Mrs. H. Lee Dunbar and William M. Norton, who passed away.

And so we come to the year 1962. The Ladies Aid has been in turn The Ladies Guild, The Women's Guild and is now The Women's Fellowship. Whether the project be layettes for Lebanon or silver for the dining room, it receives the support needful. Founding members and the old church building are passed into history but we hope—and are assured—that the future will be as fruitful as the past.

Present membership includes: Mrs. Margaret Allen, Mrs. William Boyce, Mrs. J. S. Bowden, Mrs. G. F. Brookhart, Mrs. H. O. Cox, Miss Fannie DeGolia, Mrs. M. E. Dorton, Mrs. Eula Ducey, Mrs. Jonathan Evans, Mrs. William Evans, Mrs. H. W. Freer, Mrs. William Jones, Mrs. W. P. Kirkeminde, Mrs. L. W. (Lelah) Martin, Mrs. Coleman Morgan, Mrs. William Norton, Mrs. Jack Reese, Mrs. H. V. Sanders, Mrs. S. P. Seaton, Mrs. C. C. Simonton, Mrs. Dexter Southard, Mrs. Philip Tucker, Mrs. Edward Turnbull, Mrs. M. M. Young. Honorary member: Mrs. S. C. Bishop.

Mrs. Bishop, 95 years old is the mother of Mrs. Mary Brookhart, Mrs. Cora Quin and Mrs. Eula Ducey, all of whom are, or have been, active members of the society, when living in Crossville.

First Congregational Church Observes 75th Anniversary

From CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE Issue of October 11, 1962

With a sermon topic of "Fellowship of the Saints," the Rev. Harold Wiley Freer, minister of the First Congregational Church opened observance of the 75th anniversary of the founding of that church, Sunday morning, October 7, at 11 o'clock.

From his discourse we quote: "Our anniversary points up two items: Ours is not the only Christian Church, and we are not the only people of this church. Our rich heritage is a veritable fellowship of the saints, stretching backward to the founding of the Hebrew faith with Abraham and continuing into the present.

"Our future rests upon the continuing of the liberal teaching of our church in the future of our youth. Our hope lies here: In the fellowship of the saints of the past and of the present, a living fellowship of strength and power."

The morning worship period also included the Holy Communion Service in observance of World Communion Day.

Pews were reserved for members of the Business and Professional Women's Club, whose annual observance of Business Women's Week always begins with church service in a group, when possible.

'Open House' Afternoon

A social period from two 'til five that afternoon, gave visitors and other friends the opportunity to view the many interesting exhibits in the social rooms of the church as well as greet old and new friends. About 100 persons called during that time.

Out-of-Town Visitors

Among the out-of-town visitors at the morning services, and for the 'open house' were: Mrs. T. R. Haley, of Lewisburg; Mrs. Will Deadrick, of Nashville; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Rose, Mrs. L. J. (Amy Rose) Markland, of Elizabethton; Mrs. M. J. (May Dunbar) Burelbach, Mrs. Dorothy Kuster, and Mrs. Roberta Shuter, of Chattanooga; Rev. and Mrs. John M. Phelps, of Livingston; Misses Frances and Vera Coleman, of Smyrna; Mrs. Cora B. Quin, of Kingsport; Mrs. Kelsie C. Strickland, of Chatham, New York; Mrs. G. H. (Mattie C.) Post, of Tampa, Fla.; Mrs. Mary P. Seaman, of Olympia, Washington; Roswell D. Post, of Birmingham, Alabama, and Dr. Albert Schoer, of Definance, Ohio.

Church Concludes Anniversary Observances October 11

From CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE Issue of October 18, 1962

The Thursday evening, October 11th program at the Congregational Church was the final one commemorating the 75th anniversary of the organization of the church. Music was by Mrs. S. P. Seaton at the organ and the invocation was by the Reverend Harold Wiley Freer, minister of the church. The congregation joined in singing "Take My Life and Let It Be", the Women's Fellowship Hymn of the Year.

Greetings were by Mr. Freer and Dr. James H. Lightbourne, District Superintendent of the Southeast Conference of Congregational Churches. Mr. Freer read letters from Mrs. Mary Schlicher Duncan, Palestine, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Miller, Waterport, N. Y.; Mrs. Oscar M. Fogle, Frederick, Md.; Rev. Abram Nightingale, Passaic, N. J.; Rev. John C. Wiley, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., and Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss, New York City.

Dr. Lightbourne spoke feelingly of his appreciation for the new church and of the heritage of freedom enjoyed by this denomination. Dr. Paul Ervin, Jr., chairman of the Anniversary Committee, made a short address, after which the second part of the program, which was under the auspices of the Women's Fellowship was given. A skit depicting a first meeting of what was then "The Ladies Aid", was presented. This was directed by Mrs. J. M. Krechniak and narrated by Mrs. J. W. Brown and Mrs. M. E. Dorton. Ladies taking the parts of founding members of the Society were in costumes of the period and busy around a quilt in process of being made. These included Mrs. William F. Jones, Mrs. William F. Godwin, Mrs. William A. Johnson, Miss Fannie DeGolia and Mrs. Eula B. Ducey.

A third part of the program "Looking Forward", was in charge of Mr. Freer, Mrs. M. M. Young, and Dr. W. P. Kirkeminde. Mrs. Young spoke especially of the importance of education and of concern for world affairs.

Miss Elizabeth Boyce sang "Bless This House", which was followed by the congregation singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

A social hour followed in the social room of the church where guests gathered around the tea table and enjoyed viewing the many photographs, books and souvenirs of the church from its first days to the present. Mrs. Freer was chairman of this part of the evening, assisted by all members of the Women's Fellowship. Mrs. Edward Turnbull, president of the Fellowship and Mrs. William Norton presided at the tea table.

"LOOKING FORWARD"

OUR FUTURE

On July 1, 1957 the Rev. Harold Wiley Freer began his pastorate, coming to Crossville from Cleveland, Ohio, where he had served as pastor and counselor for twelve years. For twenty years Mr. Freer had visited at least once a year in the home of his predecessor, the Rev. Abram Nightingale, so that both he and the church were well acquainted with each other.

During the years Mr. Freer had become well known as a teacher of prayer and as a retreat leader. His call by the church granted him permission to be away from Crossville at various times, that he might continue his work in schools of prayer. Much of this work lies in what Mr. Freer calls "the ministry of small groups", in which interested folk may enroll in study classes of various kinds, continuing their adult Christian education.

In our church prayer classes meeting an hour a week have been organized, some forty people sharing in these during the last five years. Two discussion groups, each meeting once a month for a two-hour period, have been added to the graduate study of the church. An adult Bible study class meeting during the church school hour offers to many people a chance for intensive study of certain biblical books as related to modern-day living. From time to time, especially during the Advent and the lenten seasons, Mr. Freer has presented series of lecture-discussions on a wide variety of subjects. Wednesday evenings another group meets for informal Bible study in the form of a prayer class, considering more subjectively what the Bible is saying directly to them, rather than the objective study of what the Bible meant in the time of its actual composition.

Altogether some 70 adults have shared at one time or another in these various graduate seminar classes in adult education under the leadership of Mr. Freer.

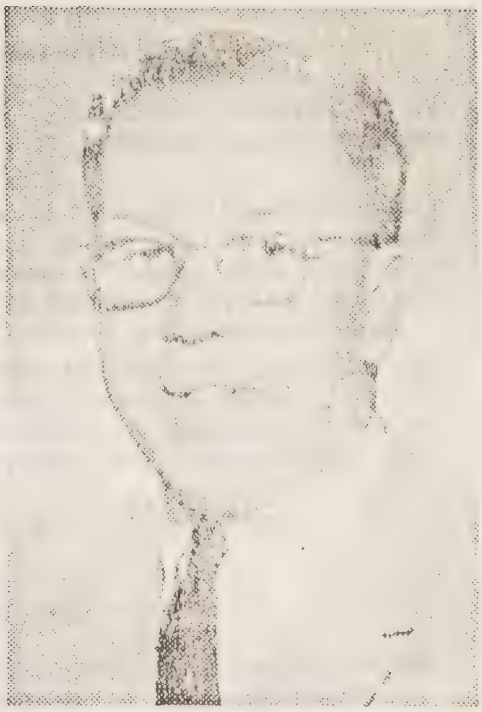
Church night suppers meeting monthly for eight months each year are equally divided between adult suppers and family suppers, the programs have brought together adults and families in an educational program.

Part of Mr. Freer's direct activity has been the leadership of the Pilgrim Fellowship, the youth program of the church, an intensive period of study, of worship, and of play, a ninety-minute program each Sunday evening.

Mr. Freer, a graduate of the University of Southern California and of Union Theological School, New York City, is married, with two children, a son Arthur, and a daughter Deirdre. Mrs. Freer is the first pastor's wife in more than three decades.

Mr. Freer is the author of two books, CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES and GROWING IN THE LIFE OF PRAYER, and co-author with Francis Hall of TWO OR THREE TOGETHER, a studybook on prayer used in more than 3,000 classes throughout the country. Mr. Freer is also national field representative of the Disciplined Order of Christ, an interdenominational research movement in the life of the spirit, founded by Dr. Albert Edward Day.

Dr. James H. Lightbourne
Supt. Southeast Convention
Atlanta, Georgia



Harold Wiley Freer
Minister

CHURCH OFFICIALS—1962

Trustees: George F. Brookhart, chairman; Mrs. R. N. Pelot, vice-chairman; Dr. S. P. Seaton, Mrs. Jesse W. Brown, Philip Tucker, Arthur G. Harrison.

Deacons: Phillip Ervin, chairman; William A. Boyce, R. N. Pelot.

Deaconesses: Mrs. H. O. Cox, Mrs. C. C. Simonton, Mrs. M. E. Dorton.

Church Clerk: Mrs. Herbert V. Sanders

Treasurer: Hugh Hendricks.

Church School Superintendent: Mrs. M. M. Young

Flower Committee: Mrs. C. C. Simonton, Mrs. William S. Lee, and Mrs. William F. Jones.

Anniversary Planning Committee: Dr. Paul A. Ervin, Jr., chairman; Dr. William P. Kirkeminde, Mrs. Moses E. Dorton, Mrs. G. F. Brookhart.

From AMA College Centennials

"On behalf of The American Missionary Association and the Board For Homeland Ministries, I send greetings to your church on its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

"In our library here we have the Journal of The American Missionary Association and in the January, 1888 issue I notice that 'a new church has just been organized at Crossville, Tennessee.' Along with this news item was a description of the significance of the work in the Southern Mountains and its importance in the evangelization of the whole South.

"In the Annual Report of the Association for 1887-88 the Crossville Church was listed as having a membership of 2 men, 15 women, and 60 children in the Sunday School. The Association in that year paid the minister, the Rev. F. M. Cooley, $252 in salary and appropriated $700 toward the cost of the building."

Signed: WESLEY A. HOTCHKISS

Acknowledgements

To the Anniversary Planning Committee whose encouragement was the incentive which finally brought this material to the publishers;

To Mrs. Agnes Lee Dorton, Mrs. Evelyn Bandy Jones, Mrs. Faye Bandy Sanders, Mrs. Bea Forbes Van Horn, without whose assistance many details, and full portions of this material would have been much more difficult to find;

To Mrs. Ernest Hutcherson, the former Willis Reed, of Crab Orchard, now of Rockwood, whose micro-film research was invaluable for many of the earliest accounts;

To members of my own family: my husband without whose encouragement this would not have come into being, my son, Donald Brookhart, who aided in the planning and management; and to my sister, Mrs. Eula Bishop Ducey, whose encouragement and assistance have aided in carrying this to completion;

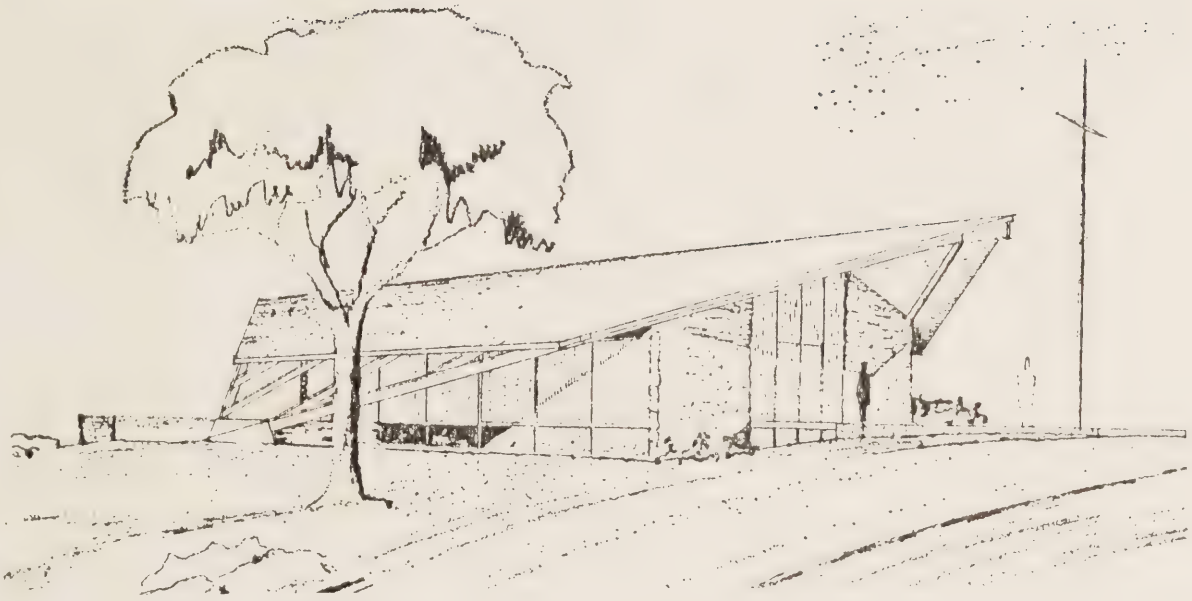
And, last but not least, to Abram Nightingale, whose friendship all here treasure, and whose acts of "Friendly Service" kept our church among the active ones in our county, for such a long time.

Pictures: Most all older pictures were taken from ones made by the late W. B. Johnson; later ones are from cuts made for the publishers of this booklet.

Prologue

This narrative may seem very materialistic, but it is intended to show that the material things were strong but the spiritual were stronger; and that both together have brought about our church of today. It is our belief that the spiritual side of our church will be the stronger in the future, for as a whole, our church is able to acquire the materialistic more easily, in this modern age, than in the years just past.

After you read this booklet, it is hoped that you will remember that the cover states it is a **Brief History.** If the compiler had another four or five months ot spend on it, there would be twice as many pages, and many more pictures.



First Congregational Church — 1962